

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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O 252242Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203833

STADIS/////////  
FOR CHARGE FROM BISHOP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, US, TS

SUBJECT: GOALS IN RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA

REF: STATE 202269

REFTEL DESCRIBES REQUIREMENT THAT DEPARTMENT IDENTIFY GOALS  
FOR EACH AMBASSADOR ABROAD. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS CONTAIN  
OUTLINE OF OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS FOR TUNISIAN PAPER. MUST  
HAVE YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS NOT LATER THAN COB AUGUST  
29 IF THEY ARE TO BE INCORPORATED IN PAPER DUE FOLLOWING  
DAY.

I. ENCOURAGE TUNISIA'S CONTINUED WESTERN ORIENTATION  
THROUGH A POSSIBLE TRANSITION ERA

-- STRENGTHEN THE DOMESTIC POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA,  
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AILING PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S MOST LIKELY SUCCESSOR, BY  
INVITING HIM TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT.

-- MAINTAIN U.S. MILITARY AND CIVIL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT  
LEVELS WHICH WILL DEMONSTRATE TO THE TUNISIANS GENUINE U.S.  
CONCERN WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL ASPIRATIONS AND DEFENSE  
NEEDS. FOCUS U.S. ASSISTANCE ON THE RURAL POOR TO COMBAT A

RURAL EXODUS, URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT AND CONSEQUENT POLITICAL INSTABILITY.

-- SCHEDULE STOPS IN TUNIS FOR SENIOR U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VISITING THE REGION. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR TUNISIANS, ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAINTAIN THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE POSTURE ON MIDDLE EAST AND THIRD WORLD ISSUES.

-- CONTINUE EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIONAL AND POLITICAL REPORTING ACTIVITIES TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ALL CONTESTANTS IN THE POWER STRUGGLE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW BOURGUIBA'S DEATH OR RETIREMENT.

-- DEVELOP BETTER ACCESS TO FUTURE LEADERS BY INVITING STUDENTS AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION TO VISIT THE U.S.

## II. SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE SIXTH FLEET

-- SCHEDULE AS MANY SIXTH FLEET PORT CALLS AS IS CONSISTENT WITH MAINTENANCE OF TUNISIAN GOOD WILL AND COOPERATION.

-- LET THE TUNISIANS KNOW THAT ALLOWING THE SOVIET NAVY TO USE TUNISIAN PORTS FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WILL IMPACT ADVERSELY ON RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.  
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-- SCHEDULE SPECIAL SIXTH FLEET VISITS TO CALM TUNISIAN NERVES WHEN THE LIBYANS ENGAGE IN SABRE RATTLING.

-- EMPLOY SIXTH FLEET RESOURCES IN DISASTER RELIEF AND OTHER EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

-- ENCOURAGE THE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE TUNISIAN MILITARY BY SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

-- RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO TUNISIAN REQUESTS TO ENGAGE IN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES.

## III. FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND CONTINUED RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

-- ACKNOWLEDGE TO PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA AND OTHER SENIOR TUNISIANS THEIR COUNTRY'S GENERALLY POSITIVE RECORD IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

-- MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ALL LEGITIMATE POLITICAL GROUPS.

INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS IN OUR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM.

-- CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, VOICING, WHEN WARRANTED, U.S. CONCERN AT PROVEN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

-- FOCUS U.S. ASSISTANCE ON THE RURAL POOR, AND ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT PLANNERS AND OTHER DONORS TO SEEK GREATER EQUALITY IN NATIONAL INCOME DISTRIBUTION.

-- PUBLICIZE EFFORTS BEING MADE IN THE U.S. AND OTHER  
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COUNTRIES TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

#### IV. EXPAND THE SCOPE OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC EXCHANGE

-- REINFORCE TUNISIA'S RESOLVE TO OPERATE A FREE MARKET ECONOMY BY PARTICIPATING IN THE FINANCING OF THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BY PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF RENEWED DROUGHT OR OTHER CALAMITY.

-- STIMULATE GREATER U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT THROUGH REPORTING OF OPPORTUNITIES, TRADE PROMOTION, AND THE FACILITIES OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK AND OPIC.

-- ASSIST U.S. PETROLEUM COMPANIES TO EXPAND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUNISIA'S GROWING PETROLEUM SECTOR.

-- PRESS THE TUNISIANS TO ELIMINATE TRADE BARRIERS AND LIBERALIZE FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROCEDURES WHICH DISCOURAGE COMMERCE WITH THE U.S. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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